## REMARKS

This paper follows the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR § 1.114. No Office Action has been issued since the RCE was filed.

Claims 41-57 and 74-82 were previously allowed, for which applicant is grateful. The other claims stand rejected for issues relating to practicing the claimed method *in vivo*.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Interview summary:

The undersigned expresses his appreciation to Examiner J. Eric Angell and Examiner Dave Nguyen for a very cordial and constructive interview regarding the outstanding issues in this case, which was held at the Patent Office on December 13, 2005.

The undersigned elaborated how the 37 CFR § 1.132 Declaration of Dr. Edward Wirth validates the Rudolph reference as an appropriate model for the use of hTERT vectors to increase proliferative capacity of mammalian cells *in vivo*.

The Examiners recommended that applicant present new claim wording and a new § 1.132 Declaration to advance prosecution of claims 62-73. These recommendations will be incorporated in a Supplemental Amendment to be filed in this application in the New Year.

Claim amendments:

The amendments to the claims presented here address the points made in the last Office Action under 35 USC § 112 ¶ 1. The amendments to the claims are supported throughout the specification and by the claims as previously presented.

The independent claims have been amended to indicate that the cells having increased proliferation as a result of being processed according to the claimed methods also express RNA component. This may be because the cells endogenously express sufficient RNA component (as do most human cells), and/or because the cells have been treated previously or concurrently to express RNA component.

Reference to the encoded protein being a telomerase reverse transcriptase is removed as redundant, since the claims already refer to SEQ. ID NO:2, and require that the encoded protein has telomerase catalytic activity when complexed with a telomerase RNA.

No fee is believed payable with respect to the filing of this paper.

However, should the Patent Office determine that an extension of time or any other relief is required for further consideration of this application, applicants hereby petition for such relief, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and other fees due in connection with the filing of these papers to Deposit Account No. 07-1139, referencing the docket number indicated above.

Respectfully submitted,

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December 22, 2005

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## USSN 09/432,503

## Attorney Docket

## 015389-002611US; 018/063C